



**City Organization and Services Committee  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor City Council Conference Room Area 'B'  
100 W California Ave, Ridgecrest, CA 93555  
Wednesday, September 23, 2015 (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday each month)**

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**Draft Minutes**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Lori Acton, Mike Mower, Solomon Rajaratnam, Cecil Yates

**Regular Meeting – 5:00 p.m.**

This meeting room is wheelchair accessible. Accommodations and access to City meetings for people with other handicaps may be requested of the City Clerk (499-5002) five working days in advance of the meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at 5:02.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Lori Acton, Mike Mower, Solomon Rajaratnam, Cecil Yates  
Absent:  
Staff: Breeden, Culp  
Recording Secretary: K. Morrison

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** *Motion To Approve Agenda as Amended Was Made By Acton, Seconded by Rajaratnam. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote of 4 Aye (Acton, Mower, Rajaratnam, and Yates ), 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstain*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** *Motion To Approve Minutes as Amended Was Made By Acton, Seconded by Yates. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote of 4 Aye (Acton, Mower, Rajaratnam, and Yates ), 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstain*

**PUBLIC COMMENT OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

David Matthews – Requests information when the chicken agenda will go to council

Yates - I think it will be in October

**DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

1. Examine the process for obtaining permits

Culp - We wanted to invite Gregg Fenton over to do a workshop. I followed up on that and he said he'd do so. The last correspondence says he wants to bring Leslie, his lead plan check person. He wants to give a general overview of the process and how plans are transferred back and forth. He wants to solicit what your desires are, what the format might be for the presentation, and capture any specifics so that he can be prepared for the workshop. He also wants to get the trades involved so we need enough time to let the trades know we're putting on this workshop.

Mower - From contractors, I've heard that they're being told a different time frame on plan checks than you've been told. They're being told it takes longer so we need to discuss that. Also, some are afraid to come and talk because they're worried there might be a repercussion.

Acton - If that is the fear then maybe we should have the supervisor present or his representative.

Mower - Either Mick or Denny just so they know what's going on. But some of their fears are with the city.

Acton - We have to figure out how to overcome that because we're trying to fix that.

Culp - They can talk to me if they have concerns.

Acton - There will be council members at the meeting.

Mower - And I can relate to people if they bring me their concerns. Have you gotten any feedback, Gary?

Gary Allred - I don't know that many contractors that even knew there was a meeting.

Culp - He wants to come on October 15th at 5:00 p.m. I want to get a press release out and solicit the local people so they know what's going on.

Mower - Does the 15th work for everyone?

Culp - We figure 5:00 since most people are wrapping up their work around that time.

Gary Allred - As long as it's advertised, the time probably wouldn't matter.

Acton - I would really like to record it if we can't televize it so people can go back and see it later.

Culp - Gregg knows in general what issues we've had. He wanted to start off with what's been implemented and what's going on currently. He wants to bring Leslie. He has high regards for her and says she's very thorough and knows the code quite well. I spoke to Leslie about the issues that she's just bringing to attention of the contractor and she agreed that some are just suggestions.

Gary Allred - No one I've talked to has taken that view. But if we know that's her view then we can address that because that's a different issue. We can do research on it and come back to discuss it with them. I like Gary Parson's comment that time is money.

Culp - There are wide sweeping changes in the code, particularly from ADA compliance. Given that, I'll let her discuss it.

Mower - And California changed the rules on plumbing just this week.

Culp - Is that going to the lower flow?

Mower - Yes.

Gary - They've changed that. The electrical code has changed. The ADA. Is Cal still the head on the ADA?

Culp - Actually Gregg Fenton is the only one in the county that carries licensing for that.

Gary - The ADA is really a discretion call for the person looking at the situation.

Acton - And I think we should have the inspectors that are now our designated inspectors there, but I don't know if that's a good idea. I don't want to discourage contractors from coming in.

Gary - It might cause some personal issues by doing that.

Acton - OK, then no inspectors. Just have Gregg and Leslie. Is she the one that's going to come out?

Culp - No, Susan from the Lake Isabella office is going to come over. She's the office person and coordinator for the plan check process. She's a plancheck technician. She does some plan check and coordinates where plans should go. Gregg wants her to come a couple of days a week to work with us to decide where a plan should go or if it could be a counter review. But he didn't want her to come over if there isn't enough work.

Acton - I also thought the main purpose was because she would be the one that would designate whether it needed to go to Tehachapi or go straight to Bakersfield and manage the records of where it's going.

Gary Allred - My understanding was that all of the plans would go to Tehachapi and then it would either be held there or transferred to Bakersfield.

Culp - That's my understanding as well.

Mower - I've never had a plan done in Tehachapi.

Acton - If everything just goes to Bakersfield anyways, why do they go to Tehachapi? That wastes two days.

Mower - That's better than two weeks.

Gary - If you take the courier, it goes to the mail room and that takes longer. Because the inspector is physically going to be there, it will go directly.

Culp - Our building department will issue the number and then let Bakersfield know what the number for the plan check is. They'll issue the permit number and your architect can deal directly with Bakersfield.

Mower - They have to have a wet stamp.

Gary Allred- The architect will not deal directly with the county. He deals with the contractor who deals with the county.

Mower - The last time on mine, the initial submittal came back three weeks later with a few items. One was that it needed a wet stamp. We redid the plans, got the wet stamp, took them to the county and got them back in a week.

Gary Allred - But they won't take them over to the county. But the plan room will since that's part of their service.

Mower - They don't even have the equipment to print them.

Acton - Is this an issue we should look into with our consultants?

Culp - They are able to provide that service if you desire, but it will cost money.

Acton - It might be cheaper to do it that way.

Gary Allred - Otherwise it's possibly a day's trip to take them to Bakersfield.

Acton - So the 15th at 5:00 in the council chambers. Can we contact the contractors?

Culp - Francie and Dorene have a list of everyone who does business with the city.

Acton - And we'll get with IT.

Culp - I have your additional issues. I've made a note for IT.

Acton - When we send it out in a press release, would it be fair enough for everyone with specific questions to get it in back by the 9th so the County can prepare for it and be ready to answer it?

Culp - That's an excellent idea.

Gary Allred - That would be nice both ways. We only have about a dozens people in town to notify.

Mower - Also notify Gleason's office as well.

Gary Allred - It's definitely something we should try and resolve. It should be a positive to the city and the community.

Culp - It leads to steps on how to make things better. This is a dynamic environment we're in, particularly the County. It's a matter of progressively learning and trying to make things better.

Culp - CA building commission sends out fliers about when they're having public hearings on code changes. That's the avenue for them to go to the public hearing or write the committee about their issues.

Mower - On the recent plumbing changes there weren't any public hearing.

Culp - I get notices from the building commission and they will announce what the issues might be.

Mower - These plumbing changes are because of the drought. True Value notified all of us. Bathroom faucets that meet the code can be sold out, but Kitchen faucets cannot be sold out after January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Gary Allred - Do we have a representative for the city that is not public that are involved in this litigation of the codes?

Culp - Not to my knowledge.

Gary Allred - The County should have something.

Mower - We can ask Gregg that.

## **2. Discuss options for removing the brush buildup along the walking path from Bowman to Richmond**

Acton - Send it to public works.

Yates - Also a concern at a lot of the bus stops.

Culp - I'll look into it. Do you have any specific bus stops.

Yates - No.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Yates - I think the workshop will be great for the builders.

## **SUPPORT STAFF COMMENTS**

Culp – Wal-Mart will occupy the site on Monday 28. Bowman road will be closed through May 2016.

Mower - It's going to be closed that long?

Culp – Yes, there will be extensive work. It is not in the public's interest to try and keep it open with the amount of work that's going to be going on. All parties agreed to direct traffic to east Ridgecrest Boulevard. The fairgrounds has been notified so they'll know there are some signs they may want to move. We've come to an agreement on how the detour will be done.

Gary - What about Sunland?

Culp - Only local traffic will be allowed on the dirt portion since it's eroded. Our portion will remain open. We're directing truck traffic to east Ridgecrest Boulevard.

Culp – We started our improvement project from Rader to Bowman road and Richmond road. Today we did our milling along all the edges where pavement butts up against the gutter or the existing road ways.

Yates - What about Downs?

Culp - I'm meeting with SCE tomorrow to discuss the issues with the poles.

Mower - I heard they're claiming they're in their right of way.

Culp - They say the poles are in their easement and we have to pay to relocate them and they cannot meet our schedule. We had our consultant and attorney look at it. We had a preconstruction meeting on the city yard. We'll do site utilities and mass grading.

Gary Allred - What about Bowman?

Culp – We're paving from Downs to the existing Wal-Mart and then to Sunland.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Wrap up discussion on the workshop with the county regarding permits

## **NEXT MEETING**

- October 28, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT at 5:48 p.m.**